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Headteacher: Mr. I. Johnson (Hons) NPQH

To all Parents/Carers,

16/3/18

Welcome back to another term at Markeaton! On paper it reads as the Summer Term but if you look out of the window it is anything but! Rain, rain and more rain it seems! Anyway, I hope you had a good Easter break with your family.

Something we have begun to try this week are Parent/Carer Meetings straight after school. On Tuesday we had the Y1 Phonics talk with Miss Gamble and on Wednesday Mr Rowcroft and Miss Gaskin explained the new bookbanding system we have introduced. Another thing we are trialling is a type of 'crèche' service which will run at the same time as the meetings. On Tuesday it was a little bit loud in the hall and it was difficult to hear some of the information so on Wednesday we invited all the children into the Y1 classroom. This meant the Parents/Carers could take all the information in and ask some questions afterwards. This model seemed to work very successfully so any future meetings we have (there are some scheduled for next week) will be structured in the same way. Check your emails for any updates on this. If you were not able to attend the Phonics and/or Bookbanding Meeting then please visit the website for any handouts or PowerPoints.

Another thing I would like to bring to your attention is our newly updated PE and Sport Premium page on the website:  
<http://www.markeaton.derby.sch.uk/PE-Premium>

Since the funding for PE and Sport Premium has increased over the last few years we are now expected to produce an annual report which explains how we have spent our money and the impact it has had. Last year our allocation of £19,090 was all spent and by visiting the website you can find out how! We certainly have a proud sporting tradition at Markeaton and we recognise the value of exercise, competition, enjoyment and the benefits this can bring to the classroom. The way in which we spent the money, how it was reported on the website and our commitment towards sport was actually recognised as excellent practice by School Sports Partnership (who liaise directly with the government) so it seems we are very much on the right path. If you ever need a reminder what competitions we have entered and where we were placed, including visitors to the school, then click on our Twitter feed and scroll down!



And finally, after a long wait, the new Junior toilets have been completed and are in full use. A big thank you to the children who helped to choose the cubicles and the colours (see left) as they look great and the children are far happier.

A big thank you also to the PTFA who helped fund the project – it was much appreciated.

Have a great weekend,

Mr I. Johnson

**PS here is the link for our Sponsored Snowdon Climb:**

<https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/ianjohnson/markeaton-midnight-snowdon-challenge.aspx>